Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the ~~patient; and~~patient, the arteriosclerosis-related information being any one of (a) normalized pulse-wave propagation velocity; (b) normalized pulse-wave propagation time, (c) a waveform of a pulse wave detected in an artery, (d) a ratio of one of a pulse pressure and a blood pressure to the other, or (e) a transfer function of a pulse wave which propagates through an artery;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining a target value of the water-remove rate based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device; and

a water-remove-rate display device which displays athe target value of the water-remove rate ~~based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device.~~determined by the target-water-remove-rate displayed by the water-remove-rate display device,

wherein the water-remove rate of the dialzyer is set by an operator to a desired value in view of the target value of the water-remove rate displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to ~~claim 2, whereinclaim 1,~~ wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a target water-remove rate range based on the arteriosclerosis-related information of the patient and a standard body weight and an actual body weight of the patient, and wherein the water-remove-rate display device displays the determined target water-remove rate range.

4. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the ~~patient;~~

~~and~~patient, the arteriosclerosis-related information being any one of (a) normalized pulse-wave propagation velocity, (b) normalized pulse-wave propagation time, (c) a waveform of a pulse wave detected in an artery, (d) a ratio of one of a pulse pressure and a blood pressure to the other, or (e) a transfer function of a pulse wave which propagates through an artery;

a water-remove-rate changing means for changing the pre-set water-remove rate to a target water-remove rate based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining ~~device.~~device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the target water-remove rate established by the water-remove-rate changing means.

5. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining the target water-remove rate based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device, wherein the water-remove-rate changing means changes the pre-set water-remove rate to the target water-remove rate determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means.

6. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a target water-remove-rate range based on the arteriosclerosis-related information of the patient and a standard body weight and an actual body weight of the patient, and wherein the water-remove-rate changing means changes the pre-set water-remove rate to a value falling within the determined target water-remove-rate range.

7. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to ~~claim 2, whereinclaim 1,~~ wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device which obtains, as the arteriosclerosis- related-information, pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related information that is related to a velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient.

8. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to a higher pulse-wave propagation velocity obtained by the pulse- wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device.

9. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity measuring device which measures, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, a pulse-wave propagation

velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient, and wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of pulse-wave propagation velocity and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the measured pulse-wave propagation velocity according to a pre-determined relationship between pulse-wave propagation and water-remove rate range.

10. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device which obtains, as the arteriosclerosis- related-information, pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related information that is related to a pulse-wave propagation velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient.

11. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to a higher pulse-wave propagation velocity obtained by the pulse- wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device.

12. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity measuring device which measures, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, a pulse-wave propagation velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient, and wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of pulse-wave propagation velocity and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the measured pulse-wave propagation velocity according to a pre-determined relationship between pulse-wave propagation and water-remove rate range.

13. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to ~~claim 2, further~~ claim 1, further comprising:

a water-remove-rate setting device which is operable by an operator to set a desired value of the water- remove rate in view of the target value of the water-remove rate displayed by the water-remove-rate display device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the desired value of the water-remove rate set through the water-remove-rate setting device.

14. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a water-remove-rate setting device which is operable by an operator to set a desired value of the water- remove rate that falls within the target range of the water-remove rate displayed by the water- remove-rate display device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the desired value of the water-remove rate set through the water-remove-rate setting device.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means which determines a target water-remove-rate range based on the arteriosclerosis-related information of the patient and a standard body weight and an actual body weight of the patient; and

a water-remove-rate display device which displays the determined target water-remove rate range;

wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity measuring device which measures, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, a pulse-wave propagation velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient,

wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of pulse-wave propagation velocity and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove-rate range based on the measured pulse-wave propagation velocity according to a pre-determined relationship between pulse-wave propagation and water-remove-rate range,

and wherein the water-remove rate of the dialzyer is set by an operator to a desired value in view of the target water-remove-rate range displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

17. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining the target value of the water-remove rate based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device; and

a water-remove-rate display device which displays the target value of the water-remove rate determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means;

wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device which obtains, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related information that is related to a velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient,

wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to a higher pulse-wave propagation velocity obtained by the pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device,

and wherein the water-remove rate of the dialyzer is set by an operator to a desired value in view of the target value of the water-remove rate displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

18. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining a target water-remove-rate range based on the arteriosclerosis-related information of the patient and a standard body weight and an actual body weight of the patient, and wherein the water-remove-rate changing means changes the pre-set water-remove rate to a value falling within the determined target water-remove-rate range; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialzyer at the water-remove rate established by the water-remove-rate changing means;

wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity measuring device which measures, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, a pulse-wave propagation velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient, and wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of pulse-wave propagation velocity and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the

target water-remove rate range based on the measured pulse-wave propagation velocity according to a pre-determined relationship between pulse-wave propagation and water-remove-rate range.

19. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device which obtains arteriosclerosis-related information that is related to a degree of arteriosclerosis of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining the target water-remove rate based on the arteriosclerosis-related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device;

a water-remove-rate changing means for changing the pre-set water-remove rate to the target water-remove rate determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means; and

a dialzyer control device which operates the dialyzer at the water-remove rate established by the water-remove-rate changing means;

wherein the arteriosclerosis-related-information obtaining device comprises a pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related-information obtaining device which obtains, as the arteriosclerosis-related-information, pulse-wave-propagation-velocity-related information that is related to a pulse-wave propagation velocity at which a pulse wave propagates through an artery of the patient,

and wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to a higher pulse-wave propagation velocity obtained by the pulse-wave-propagation -velocity-related-information obtaining device.